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SENATE BILL 5104

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State of Washington

60th Legislature

2007 Regular Session

By Senators McAuliffe, Tom, Rockefeller, Shin, Oemig, Berkey, Brandland, Fairley, Pflug, Delvin, Rasmussen, Kohl-Welles, Keiser, Zarelli, Prentice, Eide, Kline, Hobbs, Clements and Kilmer

Read first time 01/10/2007. Referred to Committee on Higher Education.

1 AN ACT Relating to the applied baccalaureate degree pilot program;  
2 amending RCW 28B.50.810; and creating a new section.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that the six colleges  
5 that developed proposals for the applied baccalaureate degree pilot  
6 programs exhibited exemplary work preparing proposals. The proposals  
7 were consistent with the legislature's vision for expanding bachelor's  
8 degree access and with the principals and criteria developed by the  
9 college board. The legislature recognizes that the authorization for  
10 the pilots was limited in number and therefore not all the proposals  
11 were able to be approved. The legislature values the work that has  
12 been done and intends to provide authority for additional pilots so as  
13 not to lose the good work that has been done.

14 **Sec. 2.** RCW 28B.50.810 and 2005 c 258 s 6 are each amended to read  
15 as follows:

16 (1) By April 2006, the college board shall select four community or  
17 technical colleges to develop and offer programs of study leading to an  
18 applied baccalaureate degree. At least one of the four pilot programs

1 chosen must lead to a baccalaureate of applied science degree which  
2 builds on an associate of applied science degree. The college board  
3 shall convene a task force that includes representatives of both the  
4 community and technical colleges to develop objective selection  
5 criteria.

6 (2) By February 2008, the college board shall select up to two  
7 technical colleges to develop and offer programs of study leading to an  
8 applied baccalaureate degree. The college board shall use the  
9 objective selection criteria developed under subsections (1) and (3) of  
10 this section to make the selection.

11 (3) Colleges may submit an application to become a pilot college  
12 under this section. The college board shall review the applications  
13 and select the pilot colleges using objective criteria, including:

14 (a) The college demonstrates the capacity to make a long-term  
15 commitment of resources to build and sustain a high quality program;

16 (b) The college has or can readily engage faculty appropriately  
17 qualified to develop and deliver a high quality curriculum at the  
18 baccalaureate level;

19 (c) The college can demonstrate demand for the proposed program  
20 from a sufficient number of students within its service area to make  
21 the program cost-effective and feasible to operate;

22 (d) The college can demonstrate that employers demand the level of  
23 technical training proposed within the program, making it cost-  
24 effective for students to seek the degree; and

25 (e) The proposed program fills a gap in options available for  
26 students because it is not offered by a public four-year institution of  
27 higher education in the college's geographic area.

28 ~~((3))~~ (4) A college selected as a pilot college under this  
29 section may develop the curriculum for and design and deliver courses  
30 leading to an applied baccalaureate degree. However, degree programs  
31 developed under this section are subject to approval by the college  
32 board under RCW 28B.50.090 and by the higher education coordinating  
33 board under RCW 28B.76.230 before a pilot college may enroll students  
34 in upper division courses. A pilot college approved under subsection  
35 (1) of this section may not enroll students in upper division courses  
36 before the fall academic quarter of 2006. A pilot college approved

1 under subsection (2) of this section may not enroll students in upper  
2 division courses before the fall academic quarter of 2009.

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